

CC Docket 98-67

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20544

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the matter of

TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES)
AND SPEECH-TO-SPEECH SERVICES FOR)
INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING AND)
SPEECH DISABILITIES)

CC DOCKET NO. 98-67

COMMENTS OF
DEAF SENIORS OF AMERICA
August 28, 2002

Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) expresses deep appreciation for having the opportunity to submit comments to the FCC Public Notice, dated, July 29, 2002, on Clarification of Procedures for Emergency Calls at Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

DSA is a national not-for-profit organization of senior citizens with hearing disabilities. Its mission is to promote and ensure equal access to all programs and services for all senior citizens with hearing disabilities.

DSA strongly endorses the revision of selecting PSAPs. Instead of selecting the nearest PSAP determined by the TRS, it is strongly recommended that the selection of appropriate PSAP should be determined by each area or region through local emergency handling team that may include but not limited to local exchange carriers, fire departments, police departments and paramedics.

All systems within the PSAP (9-1-1) networks are open to the public. Feedbacks from the public are often compiled and considered to ensure higher efficiency. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that all emergency handling procedures among all TRS be made public, too. In other words, handling of emergency calls within TRS must be non-proprietary and not confidential. The public should be given the opportunity to review TRS handling of emergency intrastate and interstate calls and provide input to ensure higher efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

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